

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 PC-01 IO-13 /077 W

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P 031745Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4118

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

USCINSCO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3758

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, ES, HO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CESAR BATRES ABOUT GUATEMALA MEETING

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3694 (DTG 301730Z JULY 76)

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLOFF TALKED WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER, CESAR  
BATRES, ON AUGUST 2. BATRES WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE GOES DELEGATION WA  
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UNWILLING TO INCLUDE POINT IN GUATEMALA MEETING DECLARATION REFERRING  
TO FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT ARRIVAL OF OBSERVERS WILL  
CALM SITUATION BUT THAT BASIC PROBLEM OF UNDEFINED BORDER STILL  
EXISTS. HE IS CONCERNED THAT FRUSTRATION OF HONDURAS MILITARY MAY  
CAUSE THEM TO INCREASE ARMS PURCHASE AND ADOPT MORE INTRANSIGENT  
POSITION ON FRONTIER. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFF HAD CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ADVISER, CESAR BATRES,  
EVENING OF AUGUST 2. HE WAS MEMBER OF GOH DELEGATION TO GUATEMALA  
MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN FONMINS ON JULY 29. BATRES SAID THAT  
HE AND FONMIN PALMA HAD BRIEFED THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL  
MORING AUGUST 2 ABOUT GUATEMALA MEETING.

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2. BATRES SAID GOES ATTITUDE AT GUATEMALA MEETING HAD BEEN SURPRISING BECAUSE THE SALVADORANS WERE UNWILLING TO INCLUDE A POINT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION STATING THAT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE FUTURE. HE REMARKED THAT THE SALVADORANS HAD SAID THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO COMPLICATE THE CEASE FIRE EFFORTS WITH THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE SALVADORAN REACTION SEEMED TO INDICATE A LACK OF INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BORDER ISSUE.

3. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOH HAD INSISTED ON HAVING OAS OBSERVERS SENT TO THE SCENE RATHER THAN ONLY OBSERVERS FROM OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. HE REMARKED THAT THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS SHOULD QUIET THE SITUATION; HOWEVER, HE WONDERED HOW LONG THEY WOULD REMAIN. IN THAT REGARD, HE SAID THAT ONCE THE OBSERVERS ARE REMOVED THE SITUATION WILL REVERT TO THE BASIC PROBLEM, E.G., THE EXISTENCE OF TWO ARMED FORCES FACING EACH OTHER ALONG UNDEFINED BORDER AREAS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE COULD BZWNO PERMANENT PEACE IN AREA UNTIL THERE ISHI DEFINITE BORDER SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE TOLD THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN FONMINS IN GUATEMALA THAT THEY WOULD BE THE "BOMBEROS" (FIREMEN) OF CENTRAL AMERICA UNTIL THE PROBLEM IS RESOLVED.

4. BEGIN COMMENT. BATES IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR AND IS FEARFUL THAT NEW OUTBREAKS WILL OCCUR WHEN THE OBSERVERS LEAVE. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A FEELING OF FRUSTRATION BUILDING UP WITIN THE HONDURAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT THAT MAY WELL LEAD TO INCREASED ARMS PURCHASES AND A MORE INTRANSIGENT POSITION ON THE BORDER. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HIS FEARS ABOUT MILITARY FRUSTRATION AND THE POSSIBLE COURSE THEY COULD TAKE ARE WELL FOUNDED. END COMMENT.  
BARTCH

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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